

MTC



# Trinity E-News



Issue 1 / 21 Trinity's email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net February 2021



**Our Minister is:**  
**Rev'd Audrey D Browne**  
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**See Page 3, for info about what is available on our Circuit Website**

**Under:**

- 'Worship & Prayer'

**and Under:**

- 'What's on' and more.....

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**'Zoom Services'**

**Our Grateful Thanks to everyone who enables us all to share together every week in our lovely 'Zoom' Services.**

**Link to our Website:**

<https://www.basingstoke-readingmethodists.uk/>

**It's all in the spelling .....**

- G – God
- R – Ran
- A – Alongside
- C – Carrying
- E – Everything

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**Some Dates:**

- Ash Wednesday – 17 Feb
- Palm Sunday – 28 March
- Maundy Thursday – 1 April
- Good Friday – 2 April
- Easter Sunday – 4 April
- Mothering Sunday – 14 Mar
- Clocks go forward – 28 Mar

Create in me a clean heart  
O God  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Psalm 51: verse 10

**Trinity E-News – Deadline for March 2021 is Thurs 18 February**

Trinity E-News is also on our Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website.

I really look forward and I am excited to receive your articles, so please keep them coming. A Big Thankyou to everyone who sends articles for our newsletters. You can send items by email or post.

**Thank you again, Hazel, Ed**

(☎ 01256-461375)

16B Portacre Rise, Basingstoke, RG21 1YQ. **My email is:**

[hazel@basingstokecircuit.net](mailto:hazel@basingstokecircuit.net)

February 2021

Dear friends,

***‘Say not the struggle  
naught availeth’***

I wonder how you are feeling today? Annoyed, lonely, confused, pessimistic, defeated or just depressed? You could quite justifiably be feeling any of these given the difficult circumstances we have lived through over the past twelve months. During my childhood, when things were difficult, my father would often quote either the first or last line of a poem by Arthur Hugh Clough.

The first line reads *“Say not the struggle naught availeth”* and the last line is *“But westward look, the land is bright.”*

However it wasn't until I was a teenager that I looked the poem up and fell in love with Arthur Hugh Clough's amazing words of hope, faith and perseverance.

I have asked Hazel to print the whole poem at the end of this article.

It is quite clearly written for a different era but I think it speaks to us now just as it has done to generations before. The ocean tide rising through creeks and inlets reminds me that small acts of love and kindness, often unnoticed or unremarked, are often the way God's kingdom spreads. The final verse also reminds us to look in unexpected places for the encouragement that comes with the light of a new day, a change or a new beginning ..... What I love most is that both the tide and the sunrise of a new day are unstoppable and inexorable, like the arrival of God's kingdom among his people on earth.

I wonder if there is a hymn or poem that has encouraged you during this past year?

The times of lockdown have given me extra time for reading and I have been working through a book of reflections by Nick Baines, the Anglican Bishop of Leeds. He quotes another of my father's favourite sayings from Proverbs 29 v18 *“Where there is no vision the*

*people perish.”* The Good News Bible puts that favourite verse like this *“A nation without God's guidance is a nation without order. Happy are those who keep God's law.”*

The huge changes going on in our world and in society in general have left many of us perplexed about where we are going as a nation. It's very easy to look around for someone to blame, especially as many of the repercussions of political decisions, climate change and globalisation are having the worst impact on those already most poor or disadvantaged.

The most fundamental question which underlies it all is *“Who are we and what are we for?”* What vision do we have of the world order that will be the new normality?

I wonder how you would answer that question drawing on your experience of life and reading of the Bible?

Another one of my lockdown discoveries is the relevance of many of the stories and lessons in The Old Testament to questions facing now. The waywardness of the Children of Israel is amazing. One generation doesn't seem to learn anything from their ancestor's experience. While they are in the wilderness they seem to identify with one another and (up to a point) persevere together but once things get a bit easier it's every person for themselves. They forget their collective responsibilities despite the fact that we learn in the Biblical narrative that God is rather interested in social justice and the way we care for one another.

Some Jewish rituals were designed to remind people to care for one another, for example, leaving the crops at the edges of the fields so the asylum seekers and dispossessed could have something to eat (as we learn in the Book of Ruth). Bringing the first 10% of your crop to the priest was designed to remind everyone

of the need to have a collective rather than personal store of goods, as a help along a shared journey through good times and bad. Religious rituals were designed to remind them that in God’s eyes “Every person for themselves” is not an acceptable or successful basis for society.

The period of Lent offers us the space to reflect on what really motivates us and drives us, What are our core values, how we live with ourselves and with others and which, or whose narrative we choose to follow.

At the beginning of Mark’s gospel after his baptism, Jesus returns from the wilderness and testing in the desert with a message for the people of his time and for us too. If we paraphrase it, it reads like this:-

*The time is now,  
God is here with you,  
Change the way you look at things  
Live differently*

As we move into Lent, let’s take God’s promises seriously and also his command to reflect Christ in our society and to shape it accordingly together.

Let’s ask God to bless us all with wisdom and discernment and give us the courage to be his people in changing times.

**Say Not.....**

*Say not the struggle naught availeth  
The labour and the wounds are vain,  
the enemy faints not nor faileth  
and as things have been shall remain.*

*If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars,  
It may be, in yon smoke concealed  
Your comrades chase e’en now the fliers  
And, but for you, possess the field.*

*For while the tired waves vainly breaking  
Seem here no painful inch to gain,  
Far back through creeks and inlets  
making,  
Comes silent, flooding in the main.*

*And not by eastern windows only  
When daylight comes, comes in the light  
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly  
But westward look, the land is bright*

**Arthur Hugh Clough 1849**

**Hilary (Reed)**

**Why not take a look at our  
Circuit Website**

**Under: ‘Worship & Prayer’**

**You’ll find:**

- **Worship Resources**
- **Services & Sermons**
- **Weekly Circuit Services**
- **Services dating back to March 2020**
- **Services from Methodist Churches around the country**
- **Churches in other traditions *and more.....***
- **And Under: ‘What’s On’ in the ‘Resources’ section You’ll find: Links** to all the resources that the **Circuit Prayer Group** has produced over the last year and even the advent resource produced in 2017. Our latest **Prayer Resource** circulated in December 2020 is also there.
- **And There are photos** from previous events too and more.....



**Link to our Website:**

<https://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.u>

**200 years ago**, on 23 February 1821 John Keats, the poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 25



## Poignant Memories



One thing that this virus has done, it has brought memories to the fore which were somewhat submerged.

In early 1943 we packed up our unit in Egypt and loaded them on to 30 lorries for the journey into the unknown. It turned out to be a journey through the Sahara of some 1400 miles.

One evening the convoy stopped for the night and all turned off the track and dispersed so they did not become a target. We were pleased to stretch our legs after being cooped up on the back of a lorry, so we walked about quite a lot, we had a meal and then bedded down in the open for the night.

In the morning again we walked about as we knew we were to go on convoy again. We had breakfast and then climbed on the lorries to go on our journey and as we turned on to the track we saw a small notice which read '**DANGER MINES**'. We had to all possibility been in a mine field all night.

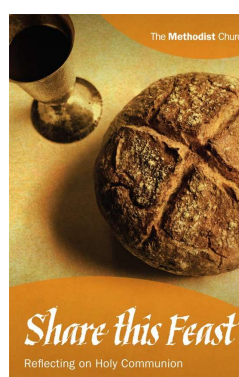
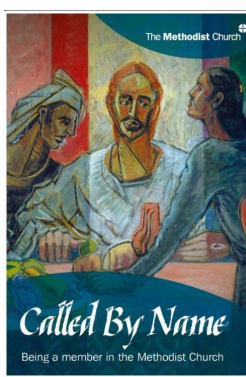
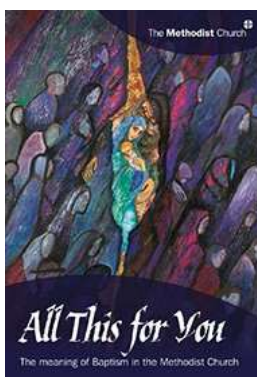
We did know of course that the 8<sup>th</sup> army advanced so quickly that they did not have time to sweep everywhere. If they suspected there were mines they put up a sign so that no-one would go there.

It certainly made us think at the time and even now, it pulls me up short when I think about it.

**Nobby**



### Lent & Easter Resources, Books, Courses, Prayers and more.....



<https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/features/lent->

**Please allow for possible delays in delivery.** Any queries about your order please contact Norwich Books and Music on ☎: 0845 017 8220 or Email: [orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk](mailto:orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk)

- **Changes to the FREE P&P Offers – more information please visit the Methodist Publishing website –** <https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk>
- [info@methodist-news.org.uk](mailto:info@methodist-news.org.uk) Email: [publishing@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:publishing@methodistchurch.org.uk) **See page 13 too**

- **Find books and other resources for your personal use this *Easter* – website:**
- <https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/features/lent->
- **Lent and Easter resources on the Methodist Church – website below:**
- **Find prayers and Lent Courses – website:**
- <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-a>

**50 years ago**, on 15 February 1971 the UK's currency was decimalised.

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## I Remember When –

- The baker's horse drawn van came down our street. He had the best doughnuts you have ever tasted. My mother loved them, the jam oozed out on your fingers.
- His horse often left a deposit on the road, which my mother would instruct me to shovel up, 'for the garden.' 'It's brilliant for the roses.'
- The shell-fish man was also a regular vendor. He pushed his cart, which was loaded with mussels, shrimps, cockles, and winkles.
- These could be collected in a dish, and were often for Sunday tea, with bread and butter.
- Wash day was always on a Monday, come rain or shine. The wash copper boiled the whites, then the huge rollers of the mangle, squeezed out some of the wetness, until clothes were finally hung on the line, 'to get the air.'
- Sometimes the icy winds made the shirts, 'stand-up for themselves.'
- The fire range was black leaded. To light the fire, you needed paper, and firewood, and then coal. If the fire was stubborn, a sheet of newspaper held up, to 'draw the flames' was used. (Health and safety – horror, horror).
- Outside next to the bath, which hung on the kitchen wall, was the coal bunker. Never locked, although anyone could have stolen the coal, but they never did.
- The toilet was outside. Freezing in winter, scary after dark, we would wait until the very last minute.
- The doorsteps were scrubbed, Red Cardinal polish on the front doorstep almost as a statement of good housewifery.
- Down the road, trams, trolley buses took us into town. Each separate tradesman had his own shop, the Butchers, where we learnt the cuts of meat. The Bakers, and the Grocers, all selling their own wares, so you went from shop to shop. 'Where's your ration book'? They asked. Before making sure you had, had your ration.
- In school, we sat silently, only speaking when addressed by the teacher, who was always 'Miss' or 'Mr' did they have Christian names? We didn't know them.
- Later on – there were the sirens, the air raid shelters, the search lights flashing across the sky, the blackout, the smog, oh and very special, the neighbourliness. The humour, I could fill a book. But that's all for now.



As Dickens Tiny Tim says 'God bless us, everyone.'

### Margaret Garland

*And Margaret added: 'Memories of a different time. One day our young people will write about Coved 19, and the way life was for them'.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**20 years ago**, on 19 February 2001 the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex. The EU subsequently banned all British meat, milk and livestock exports.

## Useful Trinity Contacts, phone numbers & emails:

Church Office: ☎: 01256-816173  
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☎: 01256 320429 / e-mail: [r\\_bath@sky.com](mailto:r_bath@sky.com)

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Bookings / Car Parking: Contact: Sue Doust –  
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Church Treasurer: David Gunton –  
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\* \* \* \* \*

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Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website:  
[www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](http://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)

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Basingstoke & Reading Circuit is a  
Registered Charity, Charity number: 1134891

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Trinity Methodist Church is a Registered Charity,  
the Charity number is 1128299

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## Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 21 February

This month you can join churches around the UK in prayer, giving and action, on behalf of those who are struggling with poverty.

Society should be “founded on compassion and justice, where all people are able to exercise dignity, agency and power,” says Church Action on Poverty.

**For free resources to encourage prayer and fund-raising, go to:**

[www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/)

*(Parish Pump)*

**75 years ago**, on 11 February 1946 The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Beware Hand Sanitiser!

Don't let vulnerable members of your family accidentally poison themselves with hand sanitiser. It can kill them. Poisonings from swallowing alcohol-based hand sanitiser have more than doubled in the past year, to nearly 400.

Doctors from the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine at the University of Oxford urge that more needs to be done to protect children, the elderly or anyone with mental health issues, from mistaking the sanitiser for a drink. *(Parish Pump)*

**Live Streamed Services, resources & information:** Please click on link to its live streamed services and useful links and resources. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

**Wesley Church (Reading) Online Services – Video's & Texts:** If anyone wishes to access past Services from Wesley, please click on the following link: <https://www.wesleychurchreading.org>

**Coronavirus Guidance & Updates:** <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/>



# Journeying Together Through Lent and Holy Week



## BASINGSTOKE METHODIST CHURCHES

You are cordially invited to journey together through Lent and Holy Week, beginning with our Ash Wednesday Service, to mark the beginning of Lent:

Revd David Jenkins, Stephen Appiah and Revd Audrey D Browne are offering the following to aid us on our journey together through Lent and Holy Week:

- **Ash Wednesday Zoom Service - 17th Feb, 2:00pm**
- **Daily Lent Devotionals (sent out via email), excluding the days on which we have a service**
- **Zoom Weekly Hour of Prayer (Tues 23rd February - Tues 30th March)**
- **Maundy Thursday Reflective Zoom Service - 1st April, 7:00pm**
- **Good Friday Zoom Service - 2nd April, 12:00 noon**

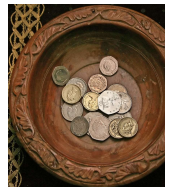


*All Zoom Links will be sent out nearer the time.*

Let us all journey together through this solemn season of Lent and Holy Week, as we look toward Easter Day, when we will celebrate once again the resurrection of the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## Trinity Collections

As you will expect, Trinity's income has been severely reduced over the past six months. This is partly because hirers have had to stop meeting, but also because without services in Church the collections have stopped. Nevertheless, much of our expenditure has continued – almost half of our outgoings go to the Circuit to pay for, among other things but to a major extent, the Circuit staff, both ordained and lay.



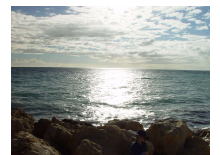
We would like to express our thanks to those who contribute by Standing Order, and those who have made contact to continue their regular giving via monthly envelopes.

We would like to remind you all that there are a number of ways that you can contribute financially to God's work at Trinity and we would particularly welcome any donations at this time.

If you need more information as to how you can give to Trinity, please contact: David Gunton (Treasurer) – [david@gunton.org](mailto:david@gunton.org) or 01256-352342 or Tony Pitt: (Gift Aid & Envelope Secretary) – [organista@btinternet.com](mailto:organista@btinternet.com) or 01256-816314.

## Mountains Make You Feel Better

The natural environment can make a real impact on your mood. **Mountains** can leave you feeling more optimistic, while the **Ocean** can help boost your inspiration. A recent study at Goldsmiths University of London found that **Water** is most effective at increasing positive emotions, such as happiness and inspiration. **Woodlands** can help you forget your worries, and **Fields** and **Meadows** can enhance your energy levels. (**Parish Pump**)





***Eulogies – John Jones, David MacDonald & Geoff Pitt*****John Robert Jones – Eulogy**

John was born in Sutton, Surrey at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War in January 1940. In 1943, with his mother and eldest sister Lily, they were evacuated to Maerdy in the Rhondda Valley in South Wales, to live with his father's family. He was Christened there in the Methodist Chapel. A year later they moved to Dorchester in Dorset to his mother's sister's farm. John had good memories of this.

After the War they moved back to Sutton. By 1952 the family had grown and he now had 2 more sisters, Merris and Rita and 2 brothers, Ray and Stan. Life was hard for the family, but he learnt to overcome those tough times and developed into the man he became.

From an early age he attended Sunday School and joined the Boys Brigade as an Anchor Boy. At 14 he became a member of the Young People's Fellowship (YPF) at North Cheam Baptist Church. It was here that he met Sonia, his future wife. They made many friends and are still in touch with some today. Sonia's parents and sister, Mary, Stan and Pat became a very important part of his life.

John and Sonia married and lived with her parents until they moved to Basingstoke with his job in the early 60's. Karen, their daughter was 6 weeks old then and Kev their son was born 3 years later.

They joined St. Andrews Methodist Church where they both helped to start the Boys & Girls Brigades and became Lieutenants in this, later transferring their membership to Trinity Methodist. John loved working with young people and was soon involved in the BB there. His other love being music, he joined the choir and formed a young people's choir called Connection who went around the circuit taking services. His future son-in-law John played Guitar for the group.

After retiring from BB, he was approached to start a Youth Marching Band. He became Bandmaster, Kev Assistant Bandmaster and Sonia, Secretary / Uniform Maker. "The Cavaliers" as the band became known, progressed from a small band to the largest in the UK and one of the most successful with some ten TV appearances, including Blue Peter, Record Breakers and they also took part in the Lord Mayor's Parade in London. They won many competitions including the European Championships and were Silver Medalists in the World Music Championships. John was an inspiration to these young people who still, together with their parents, have the highest esteem for him.

After 12 years, in 2001, he passed the legacy on so he and Sonia could do other things. Enjoy lovely holidays, where many friendships were made, and take up cruising! He also got more involved in Church activities, serving on Committees, helping run the Christmas Bazaar and leading the "housegroup" etc.

During the 90's his grandchildren, Stuart, Lauren, James and Ryan were born and he loved them all equally. He was always interested in what they were doing and very proud of all their achievements, as he was with Karen and Kev. His whole family were important to him.

*Cont'd.....*

He supported the Arsenal football team all his life, as do Kev, John and all the grandchildren – **THEY HAD NO CHOICE!** He learnt to swim before going to BB camp as he knew all the Officers would be pushed into the sea. He even did the first Basingstoke Marathon. He had a varied career too. In retirement he joined the Oakley Bowls Club and the Indoor Bowls Club. He also always enjoyed meeting friends and having meals with them.

Five years ago he was diagnosed with Parkinson's which he accepted with dignity and helped with Research by doing various trials. The last 2 years have been difficult for him health wise, but he fought bravely and kept positive. As someone once said, he was always the gentleman. John rest in peace with your Maker – God Bless x

***Eulogy written by Sonia Jones and read at the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the life of John Robert Jones by his niece Sarah Bird.***

\* \* \* \* \*

*Thank you to everyone at Trinity for your lovely cards of love and support, kind messages, letters and many prayers on the recent sad loss of John.*

***Sonia and all his family***

\* \* \* \* \*

## David Mark MacDonald – Eulogy

David was born in London in 1960 and had three brothers. In 1962 the family moved to Basingstoke. David's father was in the Merchant Navy and was usually somewhere on the High Seas. This really meant that his mother brought up four boys – some task in itself.

I first met David when he was 9 years old when he joined the Boys Brigade. He was a really good member until he was 18 and then became an Officer. He became a member of Trinity at this time. David never pushed himself forward but was always there and if anything needed done was the first to get started. Many times he was to be found at the Mission on his own doing necessary repairs and later at church was to be found possibly cleaning the gutters or something similar. He was also on the "Lock up" rota for some time. He was always there when he was needed, he was very reliable. In the Company he attained his Bronze, Silver and his Gold award in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. He went to St James Palace to receive the award from the Duke himself.

David was a good athlete – in his teens he ran and threw the javelin for Basingstoke. He started playing table-tennis with the BB and later for a team called the "Queens", after finishing playing for physical reasons he served on the committee.

Unfortunately his health started to affect his life. I think he had three kidney transplants, a serious heart operation and then lost some of one of his legs. For many years he was treasurer of a National Kidney Organisation. The following event shows how selfless he was and will always be in my mind.

When David was 17 years of age the Company was hosting a sports day for the BB in North Hants (Basingstoke, Andover, Newbury and Thatcham) and we were using the facilities at Fort Hill School. David had won the 1 mile race for a number of years and the other entrants knew this. We had two entries in the race and I picked a lad called Len who was the same age as David and a friend of his.

*Cont'd.....*

The race as usual was the last event and they all assembled at the start and it was obvious that they were all keeping an eye on David to see what he was going to do. To everyone's surprise he just jogged away and they all kept close to him, at the same time Len set off in front and they let him go thinking they could catch him up later on. David jogged for three whole laps and everyone stayed with him. On the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> and last lap, Len was now some half a lap in front and short of him falling down, it was unlikely he could be caught.

The lap had just started when David left them all standing and went on to come a very good second. I said to him after "you could have won it", his reply "he and Len had talked it over and Len realised in a straight race he was unlikely to get a place". They had arranged the whole thing and David said "if I had gone off and won, the Company would have 6 points, as it was the Company got 6 for Len and 4 for me, so it was much better for the Company. The Company won the overall trophy thanks in some measure to this action.

***I shall miss you David. God Bless, Nobby***

\* \* \* \* \*

## Geoffrey John Pitt (1921 - 2021) - Eulogy

Geoffrey John Pitt was born in Bristol in May 1921, the only child of George and Winifred. His father had given distinguished service as a volunteer in the Army in Palestine during World War I, then returning to work as a clerk at the Post Office Telephone Company. His mother had worked as a telephone operator before they married, and was plagued by ill health for much of her life. From his parents, he learned a love of music, books, cycling and walking, and had an early introduction to photography. He grew up in a small terraced house with an outside toilet and originally with no electricity. After the local primary schools, Dad passed the Eleven-plus exam and went to Cotham Secondary School where he was known as something of a swot because he learned fast. Nevertheless, he recalled raised eyebrows at home when on one term's report he was "only second in the class". While they had had no more than a basic education, his parents encouraged him greatly. From school, Dad became the first of his family to go to University, reading Natural Sciences at Cambridge. His studies were cut short by World War II, but started his interest in mineralogy largely because the physics and chemistry was going over ground he had already covered at school. Dad was a member of the Home Guard as a student, though it's impossible to imagine him as part of the platoon in Dad's Army!

With a science degree, Dad was in a "reserved occupation" during the war and so took a job at Mullards in Mitcham working on miniaturising valves for radar for planes. In his spare time, he continued his Home Guard duties and he found time to complete his degree at Birkbeck College, London. He went on to gain his PhD in crystallography there as well.

As the war ended, he married Margaret whom he had met while in Cambridge. They moved to Oxford where Dad worked in Dorothy Hodgkin's laboratory on the structure of penicillin. Mum and Dad enjoyed several years together there, making good friendships that continued for many decades.

In the winter of 1952, Dad took a job at the newly formed Coal Research Establishment at Stoke Orchard near Cheltenham, part of the recently nationalised National Coal Board. They moved during a period of bad weather to an old thatched house in Gotherington,

*cont'd.....*



being unsure whether or not the removals van would be able to make it across the Cotswold Hills. He spent the remainder of his working life at CRE, taking early retirement from there in 1982, having become one of the senior members of staff. He participated in a number of international conferences and published several papers and one book.

Dad and Mum had three children, Angela, Antony (Tony) and Helena. While I'm sure we tried his patience many times, he supported and encouraged us all in the things we took on. In later life, when someone suggested he was proud of one of us, he quickly and firmly responded "I'm proud of all my children!"

Dad turned his hand to many things and some of his attitude was passed on to us. When a major extension was added to the house in about 1970, Dad did all the new electrical wiring himself, with Tony as his assistant. He grew large quantities of fruit and vegetables in the garden. He even coped with delivering Helena when she arrived at home before the midwife could get there on her bicycle!

Dad's scientific mind was apparent in many things. He said he used to record steam engine numbers as a boy, along with weekly cycling mileage and daily weather statistics, among other things. His painstaking records of his and Mum's finances are amazing. Family camping holidays in many parts of Europe were planned with almost military precision. To take a family of 5 on a 3-week camping holiday with all the equipment in a medium-sized family car required a trailer, but Dad bought one that could also be used as a roof box because taking a trailer on the ferry would have doubled the cost. It caused much amusement around us when we all jumped out of the car on arriving in the ferry queue, transferred everything from the trailer to the car, put the wheels inside and then lifted the trailer onto the roof of the car, a process that was reversed when we disembarked. In order that everything fitted in the trailer, there was a hand-drawn plan so that everything had its place. When Dad and Mum moved to Basingstoke, there is a hand-drawn plan of where all the furniture would go in the flat. That was Dad's way.

Dad sang tenor for many years in the Bishops Cleeve Choral Society, and Tony remembers singing alongside him for a few concerts. While he never played an instrument, he encouraged us to learn recorder and piano. He enjoyed classical music and took comfort in later years listening to it on the radio. He was a school governor for a number of years, and regularly assisted the Scouts including driving them to camp. In later years, he drove the minibus to take older people to Women's Fellowship at Church. He and Mum were heavily involved in Bishops Cleeve Methodist Church in many different ways, having been present at the laying of the foundation stone. He was very active in the Gotherington Local History Society, and current members particularly value his well-organised and detailed research notebooks.

Inspired by the work that *his* father started, Dad put a lot of time into researching the family tree, making copious notes and drawing out the tree by hand. His scientific approach was a welcome balance to that of *his* Aunt Ethel whose approach was more that "if the surname is Pitt, they must be related". Dad helped and encouraged Mum when she started work on her family tree, and he accompanied her on trips with distant relatives around parts of Devon and Cornwall where her family came from.

Rebecca and Andrew knew Dad as "Grandpa Fish" because they had fish in the pond in the garden in Gotherington, to distinguish him from their other grandfather, "Grandpa Toys".

*cont'd.....*

They remember him taking them down a tunnel at a mining museum, which may have been in the Forest of Dean though we can't be certain. Andrew also enjoyed playing chess with Grandpa.

Dad had so many other interests in life. He loved gardening both outdoors and in. When he moved to Hillstead, he was known as the "Orchid Doctor" because he took in orchids from other residents and nursed them back to health and flower. He liked his daily walk, for a while pushing Mum in a wheelchair, but latterly continuing to walk even when it became difficult. He occupied his time easily, doing sudoku, cryptic crosswords and jigsaw puzzles. He kept in touch with friends from years ago and with distant relatives, and took much delight in keeping up with the lives of his 4 grandchildren. Receiving a letter from Adam was a particular treat for him, and until very recently he would reply to them as well.

How to describe Dad's personality? He was a man of few words, and it's hard to find a few to sum him up. He was well-liked by all - friends and staff at Hillstead Court, at Pemberley House, at Church, and in many other places. At Pemberley House he was described as "the perfect gentleman". He had a great sense of humour, but never used it at the expense of other people. He was patient and caring, as witnessed by dedicating himself to the care of Mum in the last few years of her life. He was generous with his money, supporting many different charities, and gave his time as well when he could. He cared for the environment and invested in organisations that were tackling climate change. He showed considerable stoicism, almost verging on stubbornness, as his body failed to keep up with his mind.

I finish with one regret: that we didn't encourage Dad to use a computer and the Internet. A dozen or more years ago, it seemed that this would be "too difficult", which is a shame because he would have thoroughly enjoyed the access to information that the Internet provides and it would have made it much easier to keep in contact with those of the family who are not nearby. He would be pleased that many people far from here can be present today over the Internet.

Dad talked about being taken by his grandfather to watch cricket matches at the County ground in Bristol when he was a child. He particularly remembered seeing the great Australian batsman Don Bradman play there. Little did he realise that he too would be almost reaching his century, but this was a milestone that in recent years was just too far away. The struggles of his later life were considerable, but they are now over. Rest in peace, Dad.

**Tony Pitt**

\* \* \* \* \*

## National Nestbox Week – Time to Help your Garden Birds

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.



National Nestbox Week, is celebrated from 14 February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nestboxes, and consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes. **Go to:** <https://www.nestboxweek.com>

**(Parish Pump)**



See page 4 too

## Called to be postcards

This pack of postcards shares some of the ways in which ministry is expressed with the Methodist Church in Britain. These postcards can be:

- Used in small groups as conversation starters
- Used in worship
- Used on your own as you ponder about a calling to serve within Methodism

The cards all have a beautiful image on the front and then some reflection questions on the back at: <https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/JVW->



**Please allow for possible delays in delivery.** We thank you in advance for your patience. Any queries about your order please contact Norwich Books and Music on ☎: 0845 017 8220 or email: [orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk](mailto:orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk)

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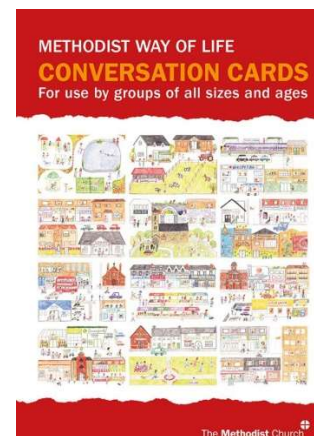
See page 4 too

## A Methodist Way of Life – Conversation Cards and Power Point

Use these illustrated cards with questions to prompt conversations around the practices of A Methodist Way of life. Suitable for all ages and groups. Pack of 12 cards with an introductory card.

**Please order at:**

<https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/features/meth...>



See page 4 too

## Finding the Way: Getting Started with A Methodist Way of Life

Strengthen your faith and recharge your spiritual life with this study guide. Explore and get the most from A Methodist Way of Life on your own, in a pair or group, by engaging with the exercises, prayers and faith stories. A5, FREE + P&P

**Please order at:**

<https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/features/meth...>





## Knitted Angels

I thought I would update you on the knitted angels. Playgroup got their angels, however the following day they had to close due to a member of staff having Covid, so I do not know if they were given out or not. If not they have them ready for next year. A few of you got in contact with me suggesting where others might be a blessing, but there were still about twenty left.

So one wet morning I set out from Trinity with a bag of angels with messages attached and posted them through random doors, in the nearby streets. I had a conversation with one lady who opened the door as I was trying to get the angel through the letterbox. (A little known fact...Letterboxes were not designed with Angels in mind!) She was pleased to receive it and to have a chat, as she hadn't spoken to anyone in several days. We also had a card at Trinity with the message below from someone else.

Thank-you for my knitted  
angel - She certainly  
brighten my day.  
Best wishes for a more hopeful  
2021



A small venture, but I think worthwhile. Perhaps you can come up with an idea for next year.

**Jennifer Pitt**

(Although sent round by email a few weeks ago, I thought it worth putting into our newsletter, for those without internet access who receive printed copies). Ed

## As Valentine's Day approaches, Canon Paul Hardingham Considers Romantic Love (Parish Pump)

**Love is...**As we mark Valentines' Day this month, it's good to ask the question: what does real love look like? The Apostle Paul says: *'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.'* (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).

**Love is unconditional:** At heart, love is not just feelings but action! Paul talks here about unconditional love, using the word *agape*, which demonstrated in God's love for us: *'We love, because He first loved us.'* (1 John 4:19).

**Love is forgiving:** According to the film Love Story, *'Love means never having to say you're sorry.'* This is rarely true in our experience! According to Paul, love is being ready to forgive others and *'keeping no record of wrongs'* (5). We can only forgive others because we know God forgiveness in our own lives.

**Love is sacrificial:** Paul says that *agape* love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of other people first. This is modelled by Jesus giving His life for us on the cross. Take the words from 1 Corinthians and instead of the word *love*, substitute your own name. Now substitute the word *Jesus*. This is the Jesus who is available to you to make your love for others grow and flourish. Someone once compared love being like a group of porcupines huddling together on a cold night. The closer they get, the more they jab and hurt each other. *'To love at all is to be vulnerable.'* (C S Lewis).

## One Small Voice

Birds, fish and animals.  
Insects and plant life too,  
How to keep them going,  
It's down to me and you.

Already in the mists of time,  
Some have become extinct,  
Remember each one has a purpose,  
Every life is linked.

To preserve the future,  
is it too much to ask  
That each generation must be  
charged with this task?  
Each day, new regulations are made,  
but to our cost,  
As customs and traditions,  
are slowly being lost.

We must watch our carbon footprint,  
Take care of global warming too;  
Don't leave it to the others,  
It's down to me and you.

*Jean Hammond*

Previously published in  
*Extinction – An Anthology of Poems*

\* \* \* \* \*

*It was published in a booklet after I submitted it to a competition 10 years or so ago. It's topical at the moment with David Attenborough's 'The Perfect Planet' on Sunday evenings and a major UN conference on climate change happening in November this year. We also found the film of Greta Thunberg – I am Greta – very interesting which was on BBC1 on 6 January.*

*A Poem sent to Pat Murphy by  
Pat's friend in Canada*

## Stumbling Blocks

Whenever life  
Seems to take a wrong turn  
It's in these experiences  
That we must learn

For God who is loving  
Constantly speaks  
And gives us the answers  
We so desperately seek

Although His voice  
Is seldom heard  
He speaks through people,  
Events and His word.

And although the answers  
May not always be  
What we envisioned  
And yet we must see

That seeming stumbling blocks  
Can actually be  
Life-saving stepping stones  
Leading us to Thee

\* \* \* \* \*

## A Prayer by Pat Murphy

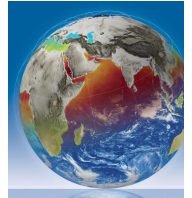
*Dear Jesus,  
take my heart, my hand  
And help me this I pray  
That I through your  
sweet love may grow  
More like you day by day*

## Sir Keir Starmer Praises Churches

Christianity has provided a blueprint for social improvement, according to the Labour Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer. Writing in a recent issue of Church Times, he said, "For all the loss and difficulty, we should not let this year be defined by pain. Throughout the pandemic, we have also seen the best of humanity."

Sir Keir said that during this past year "religious institutions and local communities have banded together for the common good, showing us the very best of Britain." And he went on to say that "the best of British values" that have surfaced during the pandemic "are also the best of Christian values." (*Parish Pump*)

## Trinity, Basingstoke as an ECO Church



You may have read in the last Trinity Newsletter that the Basingstoke & Reading Circuit is aiming to become an ECO Circuit. In order to achieve that aim, a certain number of churches in the circuit need to become ECO Churches. There are 3 levels of ECO Church, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Trinity, Basingstoke has been selected to work towards, in the first instance, Bronze ECO Church level. The organisation that is championing this in the UK is called A Rocha UK.

*“A Rocha UK (ARUK) is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment.”*

We have all been made aware of the threat to the natural world by climate change, loss of habitat for both wild and domestic animals, pollution, plastic use etc. and as God’s children we have a duty to do what we can both as individuals and a church to try to reduce the impact on His wonderful creation.

Trinity is already in the very early stages of moving towards becoming a Bronze Church having had our windows replaced, having an efficient boiler and composting facilities but there is still a lot more to do. It is not going to happen overnight of course but we are working towards that aim and with your help and commitment we will achieve it. This initiative is not just about the church building it is also about the people who use the church grounds and premises. In the words of A Rocha it includes:-

*“Families and individuals through our [Wild Christian](#) scheme and community, supporting people to enjoy, nurture and defend nature in their own homes and communities, and by campaigning.”*

There will be more information about the things Trinity can do in future newsletters.

**Peter Ansell and Tony Pitt**

## ***Here is a Beautiful Paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13 – the ‘Love Chapter’*** **Describe what love is (Parish Pump)**

*J R Miller (1840-1912) was considered by many to be the most gifted devotional writer of his generation. His book ‘In Green Pastures’ was much loved. Here is J R Miller’s paraphrase of the famous ‘love’ passage in 1 Corinthians 13:*

Love thinks no evil. It does not suspect unkindness in kindly deeds. It does not imagine an enemy in every friend. It does not fear insincerity in sincere professions of esteem. It does not impugn others’ motives nor discount their acts.

On the other hand, it overlooks foibles and hides the multitude of faults that belong to every human being, even to those who are the holiest and the best. Love believes in the good that is in people and tries to think of them always at their best, not at their worst.

It looks, too, at the possibilities that are in people, what they may become through divine love and grace, and not merely at what they now are. It is wonderful how seeing through love’s eyes changes the whole face of earthly life, transfiguring it. If the heart be filled with suspicion, distrust, and doubt of people, the world grows very ugly. But love sees brightness, beauty and hope everywhere.

**30 years ago**, on 28 February 1991 the Gulf War ended at midnight when a ceasefire came into effect.



## Intermingling of Horror and Holiness

We have been warned by our Prime Minister that there is a new Covid variant that may be 30% more lethal than the original. If Covid 19 had a human mind and heart, it would be remembered as the ultimate terror threat this world has ever known. We have been aware that our television programmes of late have positively shown us how beautiful is our planet Earth, and so fragile too.

Personally, I am grateful that our Minister, Audrey, and her helpers, who have set-up a means whereby congregational members of Trinity can zoom in and join together in wholesome worship. This naturally puts pressure on Hazel, our Trinity Newsletter editor, but she deals with pressure admirably, and there is no doubt that Peter's presence there with her encourages her in her task. She is an enthusiastic participant in all this; she always encourages us members to submit articles for entry into the TN, including items of life experiences in our Faith, or sending in our favourite Bible passage, and perhaps say why we have chosen it, or submit a favourite poem or book we have read ---- and so on. There are an increasing number of members doing so now. Our Newsletter also attracts non-member's entries too. The December 20 / January 21 newsletter is an absolute little gem. I found it so spiritually uplifting, that keeps me dipping into it often to savour its richness.

You will have noticed how our television sets are showing programmes about how lovely and engaging is our world. It is no wonder that our gracious God has chosen this part of his vast Creation for us to exist, showing us how much he loves us and wanting us eventually to be with him in paradise. Yet many of us fear that Mankind itself will destroy this precious planet of ours, but that can never happen, because we know that Jesus will visit us again. What a wonderful day that will be!!!

**Mervyn**

### **Canon Paul Hardingham Considers the Temptations of Jesus**

**How to handle temptation – “I can resist everything but temptation”** (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when *'He was led by the Spirit.. to be tempted by the devil.'* (1). Temptation is a test of *obedience*, whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.

**The first temptation was to turn stones into bread:** Jesus' ministry was not about meeting His own needs, but being nourished by God's Word. *'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

**The second temptation was to put God to the test:** Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God's way! *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

**The third temptation was to worship Satan:** Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'* (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is often our experience in living for God. Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit and the victory of the Cross. *'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!'* (**Corrie Ten Boom**). (**Parish Pump**)

## Fairtrade Fortnight: 22 February – 7 March

It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south. In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.



Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them. So this month, why not visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) and see how you can send and lend some support. (*Parish Pump*)



## 1CB AGM (One Church Basingstoke)

28/02/2021 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 28 February 2021 @ 4.00 pm

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes from 2020 AGM – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January
3. Matters Arising
4. Report from Chairman – Will Ross
5. Financial Update and Approval of 2020 Accounts – Trevor Woodget (Treasurer)
6. Election of Treasurer for 2021
7. Appointment of Accountant- Colleen Eldridge
8. Update from Administrator – David Grant
9. Election of One Church Leadership Team Members
  - Those up for re-election:
    - Jeanne Hiscock (Winklebury & Worting)
    - Robin Mendelsohn (Hub Community Church)
    - Will Ross (Buckskin Evangelical Church)
    - Trevor Woodget (Basingstoke Baptist Church)
    - Kay Blackwell (London Street URC)
    - Andy Taylor (Hope Community Church)
10. Presentation – Cinnamon Network?
11. Subscriptions for 2021
12. Any Other Business

**Zoom Link:** Topic: 1CB AGM

Time: Feb 28, 2021 16:00 London

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89377297900>

Meeting ID: 893 7729 7900 Passcode: 732750

## *'By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered'*

These are strange, difficult times that are bringing fear and uncertainty into so many lives at present. Now is the time to hold fast to our beliefs and trust God. He continues to use us, and perhaps he says to all of us, as was said to Queen Esther, by Mordecai 'For such a time as this.' (Esther Chap.4).

A hymn I find helpful, and inspirational, was written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was held in captivity, and assassinated by the Nazis, just before the end of World War 2, '**By gracious powers**'. Dietrich Bonhoeffer is now remembered as a 20<sup>th</sup> century martyr. There is a statue of him over the west door of Westminster Abbey in London. A wonderful expression of his faith in God.

**Margaret Garland**

--

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered.  
And confidently waiting, come what may  
We know that God is with us night and morning  
And never fails to meet us each new day.

Yet are our hearts by their old foe tormented,  
Still evil days bring burdens hard to bear,  
Oh give our frightened souls the sure salvation,  
For which, oh God, you taught us to prepare.

And when the cup you give is filled to brimming  
With bitter suffering, hard to understand,  
We take it gladly, trusting, though with trembling,  
Out of so good, and so beloved a hand.

If once again, in this mixed world you give us,  
The joy we had, the brightness of your sun,  
We shall recall what we have learned through sorrow,  
And dedicate our lives to you alone.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

## **Leave Them Be – Help our Wildlife**

The National Trust has urged the public to stay away from certain areas during breeding season this Spring. It hopes to mimic the effects of lockdown last year, which helped more vulnerable species. The call follows the discovery last year that lockdown did our peregrine falcons, grey partridges and other species a real favour. The tern colony at Blakeney Point in Norfolk had a bumper season, with more than 200 little tern chicks fledged, the most in 25 years. The Peak District saw more curlew, and the Llyn Peninsula saw more stoats, weasels and rabbits emerging from the woodlands of Plas yn Rhiw. Meanwhile, the ruins of Corfe Castle in Dorset became home to peregrine falcons, and a cuckoo arrived in Osterley, west London. Even Dartford warblers were on the move, some to as far as Shropshire. (**Parish Pump**)





## *Reaching Out*

*The Basingstoke Outreach Newsletter – December 2020*



*'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'* (Isaiah 9: 6)

### **Greetings once again to you all**

As I write this final newsletter of the year, it is exactly one week until Christmas Day. I have been out in the town centre on my chaplaincy round this morning and it was good to see that people are out supporting our local shops, and most people appeared to be adhering to the social distancing rules!

This year, Advent has taken on a new significance for many of us. Advent is a period of waiting and anticipating, but we may find ourselves distracted this year as we wait in anticipation for news of whether we can gather together with family members for Christmas, or we wait in anticipation for the news of the health of friends and family. It will be a time of mixed emotions for many I'm sure.

Christmas will no doubt be different this year, but nothing can diminish the celebration of the birth of the Christ child. However you will be spending Christmas, I hope it will be a time of blessings, peace and joy.

### **News from Basingstoke Foodbank...**

We heard recently, the good news that the new premises at Houndmills have been secured for the next two years. The Foodbank has been able to purchase a large commercial refrigerator, which means we can now store fresh fruit and vegetables, and are now able to provide fresh bread, eggs, fruit and veg in every food parcel.

Since the outbreak of Covid 19, the Foodbank has been extremely busy. Compared to last year, we have provided emergency food parcels for twice the number of people, and during the peak in April and May we fed four times the number of people.

We praise God for the generosity of people in our local community who have kept us well supplied with food and toiletries, particularly in the lead up to Christmas. If you would like to donate to the Foodbank, items that we are short of can be found on the Basingstoke Foodbank website: [www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk)

### **Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy**

Following lockdown, the Town Chaplaincy prayerfully considered the best way forward, especially as many of the places that we visit like the magistrates court were no longer accessible due to social distancing restrictions. It was felt that this is a time where the presence of chaplains in the town is particularly important and as a result we have been out and about in the town-centre streets, the shopping centre, railway and bus stations and Eastrop Park (all socially distanced of course!)

*cont'd.....*

We have met and chatted to many people whilst out on our rounds, many of whom have fears and concerns and who have asked for prayer, which has been a great privilege. Job insecurity has been a big worry for many people in the retail and hospitality sector, and whilst chaplains are not able to provide the solution, they are able to provide a listening ear. Sadly, we have seen the closure of several shops in our town-centre, with loss of jobs for many.

If you would like to find out more about BTC visit the website:

[www.basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk) or have a look at our new Facebook page – log on to Facebook and search for Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy New page.

*Are you interested in volunteering as a Chaplain? If so, you can arrange to accompany a chaplain on one of their rounds. Please contact the chaplaincy office on 01256 842232*

### Youth Café at URC

Unfortunately, the Youth Café remains closed for the foreseeable future.

With blessings to you all at Trinity, St Andrews, Oakley, Oakridge, Kempshott and Old Basing. Know that you are all held in prayer.

**Tessa (Bennett)**

*Too late for Dec / Jan Trinity E-News, but a shame for it not to go in – slightly edited. Ed*

### 'A Picture that Alison shared' –

Shown by Michael on our Sunday Zoom Service, 31 January, read out by Michael and sent for sharing with us all.

**A message from Michael:** 'My thanks to everyone for their cards, messages, prayers and continuing support for myself, Chris and Emma, Spencer and Leo'.



There might be times  
that almost feel  
normal and like  
nothing is happening

And at other times  
the full reality of  
what is happening  
might overwhelm you



Take it easy and be  
gentle, you're doing  
the best you can

## Looking And Seeing

Looking out of my windows I see the changing scene – Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter – and I find great joy in it all. I love to look at the garden and the countryside, the flowers, the trees, the grass, the pattern of rain and sunlight. These I can delight in for ages. But other things I hardly notice. I am thinking now of how we look at things that really matter to us.

There is the rubbish pile and the beautiful flowering tree beyond. Looking at the tree we miss the rubbish. There are, in life, many ugly things that we hear and see, but there are many more beautiful things. It is the way in which we look which makes all the difference. What did our Lord say? *“Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the beam in your own.”* I like the little story about a woman who enjoyed looking out of her window to the house opposite. One day she realised she was not seeing very clearly so said to herself, *“That woman needs to clean her windows.”* But on further inspection she discovered to her shame that it was her own windows that needed cleaning.

It behoves us to be very careful. Things are not always what they seem. It depends how we look. Perhaps we are looking at someone or a situation in the wrong way. We need to have clear sight, to keep the windows of our eyes clean so that we can see the best whenever and wherever we look. Jesus sees beyond the appearance of things. He sees the real potential for instance in Zacchaeus, despised by so many, but not by Jesus. The story of the Good Samaritan is of two who saw nothing but a bundle of rags and one who saw a human being in need and did all he could to help. All three looked at the same man but only one was looking closely and seeing the man as he really was.

As we draw near to Easter and our celebration of the Resurrection it may be helpful to remember how some people saw the Lord. Herod in St Luke (chapter 23 verses 6 – 8) had long wanted to see Jesus. He was hoping and looking for some sort of miracle and because he didn’t get what he was looking for he sent Jesus back to Pilate. But in verse 12 it says that that day Herod and Pilate became friends where before they had been enemies. So you see, there was a miracle unseen by the two men. We see only what we want to see.

And what of Pilate? He certainly didn’t see Jesus as a murderer. In fact, he told the crowd he could find no fault in the man before him. I have no doubt that Pilate could see something different about the man Jesus but did not, in the end, have the courage to go against the crowd. One thing stands out: Pilate had an inscription fastened to the cross: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. And when there were protests he insisted *“What I have written, I have written.”* One wonders what Pilate really did see in the One who was brought before Him.

Of the two criminals crucified alongside Jesus one saw nothing except a fellow criminal of whom it was claimed that He had the power of God about Him. So he taunted Him: if you are the Christ then save yourself and us. Not once did he think of the wrong he had done or he might have seen Jesus as One who could forgive sin. On the other side of Jesus how different. Here was one who saw the Son of God alongside him, the Son who truly was king and begged Him *“Remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”* Two men, both looking at Jesus and one seeing Him for who He was and receiving that promise, *“Today you will be with me in Paradise.”*

In her book *‘Waiting on God’*, Simone Weil wrote that one of the principal truths of Christianity which goes almost unrecognised today is that the looking is what saves us. The thief looked unto Jesus and his soul was saved, he was forgiven.

*cont’d.....*



And so to Easter day. John 20 tells us that early in the morning when Mary, Peter and John went to the sepulchre it was empty. Peter and John went home but Mary stayed. She was looking for Jesus. She saw someone she thought was a gardener and begged him to tell her if he knew where the body of Jesus was laid. Then He spoke and she recognised her Lord. Jesus commissioned her to go and tell the disciples. I am sure her feet hardly touched the ground as she hurried back to tell them *"I have seen the Lord."* She had seen with her own eyes and heard His voice call her name.

In these stories not everyone saw the same thing. One thief saw Jesus for who He was – the other saw a reflection of himself. Mary began with seeing an empty tomb, then saw one whom she took to be the gardener, then she saw Jesus. We need to learn what it is to look beyond. We who seek to be followers of Jesus need to have the eyes of our spirits open to see His footsteps in the grass. His hand in the healing, to hear His voice in the speaking of our name. He walks the ways of our world and longs for us to see the signs of His presence.

### **Stella Rowland**

*(This piece was written by Stella Rowland, Revd John Rowland's mother. Stella was also a member of our congregation at Trinity some years ago. The piece is taken from a book written by Stella 'God in The Everyday', and is used with permission).*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Action for Children**

**(Now Working with the Methodist Church)**

### **How 'Action for Children' Works**



- **By doing** what works for all children.
- **By asking** for the support of everyone.
- **By doing** what's right, what's needed, and what works.
- **By helping** children in the UK, from before they are born until they are young adults.
- **By making** life better for disabled children.
- **By acting** early to stop children being neglected or abused.
- **By changing** lives through fostering and adoption.
- **By providing** short breaks and care for children and families.
- **By supporting** parents and keeping families together.
- **By asking** for our support – the work of **'Action for Children'** has a lasting effect on disadvantaged children, their families and our society, but they need our help.....
- **By Post:** Action for Children, 3 The Boulevard, Ascot Road, Watford, WD18 8AG.
- **By Phone:** 0300 123 2112 (9 am – 5 pm, Monday to Friday).
- **By Email:** [ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk)
- **Web:** [www.actionforchildren.org.uk](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk)
- **Twitter:** @actnforchildren



## COVID 19 UPDATE:



### **BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK CONTINUES TO DELIVER DIRECTLY TO HOMES THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Our foodbank relies on Your Goodwill and Support. Monetary Donations big or small are also gratefully received.

Check out our Website at: <https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>  
**Also on Our Website**, you will find the list of locations & times where you can donate food:  
**Locations are:** Tesco Chineham; Annies Charity Shop Winklebury; Sainsburys Tadley; Co-op Food Old Basing; Londis Sherfield on Loddon; Co-op Food Rooksdown; Waitrose Basing View; Asda Brighton Hill; Lidl Worting Road; One Stop Oakley; The Vicarage St Mary's Church Old Basing; Leighton Opticians & Hearing Care and Christ Church Chineham.

- **'Sainsburys has kindly placed a permanent crate for Foodbank donations at their store in Kempshott.** Thank you for supporting our Foodbank clients – on their behalf can we say how grateful we are for every donation!'

**Basingstoke Foodbank:** We heard recently, the good news that the new premises at Houndmills have been secured for the next two years. The Foodbank has been able to purchase a large commercial refrigerator, which means we can now store fresh fruit and vegetables, and are now able to provide fresh bread, eggs, fruit and veg in every food parcel. Since the outbreak of Covid 19, the Foodbank has been extremely busy. Compared to last year, we have provided emergency food parcels for twice the number of people, and during the peak in April and May we fed four times the number of people.

*(This paragraph is taken from Tessa Bennett's 'Reaching Out' newsletter, page 20 & 21).*

The address can be found in previous newsletters, postcode is: RG21 6XG. At this time there is no process in place for transfer of donations from Trinity to the new site, please do not leave donations at Trinity. Thanks,

Tony Pitt

\* \* \* \* \*

At present, (as at 27.01.21) the Foodbank is

**CRITICALLY Short of:** (from the Foodbank website):

- Bags for Life (We are really short of bags just now)
- Long Life Milk (Full Fat & Skimmed, small or large)
- Powdered Milk
- Tinned Meat
- Hair Conditioner (300 - 500 ml)
- Toothpaste
- Men's Shaving Gel / Foam
- Shower Gel

### **The Foodbank is Also Low on:**

- Sweet spreads
- Rice Pudding
- Desserts
- Custard
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Tinned fruit
- Soap
- Laundry Tabs
- ***Including:***
- Fresh Veg; Bread & Eggs

### ***The Foodbank has plenty of:***

- Baked Beans
- Biscuits
- Rice
- Pasta
- Soup
- Teas, Fruit Teas
- Kidney Beans and Other Tins of Pulses

**SILCHESTER METHODIST CHURCH  
ARE HOSTING A**

## **PANCAKE EVENING**

**Tuesday 16 February,  
6 pm – 7.30 pm**



**Join us on Zoom for a fun evening,  
families welcome**



**'Eat along'  
with your own  
pancakes!**

**For Zoom** meeting details & more information including how, if you wish, to donate to church funds afterwards please.

**REGISTER WITH KATHY**

**Email:** [kandd651@gmail.com](mailto:kandd651@gmail.com) or **telephone:** 0118 9701234

## **Appeal for Volunteers to help with Coronavirus Vaccinations**



Dear Basingstoke One Church,

Basingstoke Voluntary Action have been asked to support the recruitment of volunteers to assist with the local Coronavirus Vaccination efforts. Over the next 3 months the NHS will be holding days at a central location when they will be arranging for people to come in and receive their vaccination. Volunteers will be needed outside and inside the building to meet and greet people and show them where they need to go.

We don't as yet know the full details so we are reaching out to find out whether any of the Basingstoke churches would be interested in volunteering and if so, when people would be available. When we know full details we will then contact you again.

If any staff or those they live with are classed as Extremely Clinically Vulnerable then it is of course safer that they don't volunteer at this time.

***Kind Regards, Sarah Williams, Volunteer Support Officer,  
Basingstoke Voluntary Action***

If you or anyone you know is interested in helping please contact Sarah directly:  
[swilliams@bvaction.org.uk](mailto:swilliams@bvaction.org.uk)



## Shoemakers Christian Bookshop, Newbury

**Shop with Shoemakers** during lockdown: as you may have gathered, as a non-essential retailer here at Shoemakers we have had to close our physical shop. However, to pursue our mission, we are delighted to say that we will continue trading in every other way. You can shop with us in the following ways:

- **online** anytime at: [www.christophershoemaker.org.uk](http://www.christophershoemaker.org.uk)
- **by telephone** during our opening hours (Tuesday – Saturday: 9:30 am – 4 pm) on: ☎:01635 37836
- **by email** anytime – [office@christophershoemaker.org.uk](mailto:office@christophershoemaker.org.uk)
- **Facebook** messenger – visit us at: [www.facebook.com/shoemakersbooks](https://www.facebook.com/shoemakersbooks)
- **Click and collect is still available and existing orders WILL be honoured.**
- **Our coffee shop will still be open for takeaway drinks.**
- **Orders can be posted or delivered to you. Please support your local Christian bookshop, we are here to serve you.**
- **Resources for Lent 2021:** Lent is traditionally a time of reflection and preparation. With lockdown uncertainty continuing, why not spend time in individual reflection or together as part of an online discussion group.
- **Have a look at the great resources we have at Shoemakers and don't forget, this year Lent starts on 17 February.**
- [Shoemakers Christian Books and Coffee Shop – Lent and Easter Books \(christophershoemaker.org.uk\)](http://christophershoemaker.org.uk)



*And may Romans 8:37-39 encourage us all.*

### The Birds and Bees (*Parish Pump*)

Here is some good news: all new major roads will have wildflower-friendly verges that could boost our numbers of birds and bees. Highway England has said that vibrant road verges will be created as standard on new roads over 300 miles in England, using low nutrient soils which will be seeded with wildflowers or left to grow naturally. A staggering 97 per cent of our meadows have been destroyed since the Thirties, due to modern agriculture. This means that the 238,000 hectares of road verges across the UK could become a vital habitat for pollinators. The Government has pledged to build 4,000 miles of new road by 2025.



### A Prayer for the Pandemic (*by Daphne Kitching, Parish Pump*)

Dear Father God, You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you!

We so need Your listening ear at this time – and your help, Lord.

Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue.

When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust You and to know that You are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us.

You are not social-distancing, You are very, very close, full of love and compassion.

We pray for our National Health Service and ask for Your special strength and protection for all staff. Thank you for the skills You have given to scientists all over the world.

Thank you for the hope which the vaccines bring.

Most of all thank You for the hope which Jesus brings.

This earthly life is a whisper in the light of eternity and Jesus is the key to that eternal life.

Thank You, Father, for meeting all our needs in Jesus. Amen.

Published by Trinity Methodist Church; 'Registered Charity number 1128299'

## Christian Persecution in 2021 is set to Rise in China and India

That is the forecast of Release International, which has recently published its annual Persecution Trends survey. “Our partners tell us that attacks are on the rise under Communism in: **China, Islam in Iran and Malaysia, and under militant Hinduism in India,**” says Release CEO Paul Robinson. **There is also persecution in North Korea, Pakistan, Egypt and Nigeria.** “Yet despite persecution and the pandemic, we see clear evidence of the **Boldness, Courage and Trust in God of Christians under pressure around the world.**”

**China** – Persecution is thriving in Communist **China**, which has bought the silence of the international community through increased dependence on trade, according to the report. Release International’s partners warn: ‘The government of President Xi Jinping is increasing its ‘clean up’ of anything that does not advance the communist agenda. They appear to believe that they can achieve this by systematic opposition. Tough new laws controlling religion have been imposed. Non-registered churches have been raided and closed in 2020, and increasing numbers of registered churches have been made to install CCTV cameras and put up posters proclaiming communist ideals and beliefs.

**Covid-19** – In common with a number of persecuting nations, China has been exploiting the Covid-19 pandemic to tighten restrictions on underground believers. “The Chinese Government is trying every way to take advantage of the virus by increasing the crackdown against Christian churches,” says Release partner Bob Fu, of ChinaAid. “It has accelerated particular campaigns, such as the forced removal of crosses.” Bob Fu’s work has come under direct pressure as a result of a bizarre campaign targeting Chinese exiles in many countries. Even in the United States he has faced bomb threats and been forced to seek police protection, but he says the work of ChinaAid will not be stopped.

\* \* \* \* \*

**India – In India**, Christians and other minorities fear religious intolerance will continue to grow during 2021, largely due to growing Hindu nationalism. Hindu extremists attacked churches and individual believers throughout 2020. According to India’s Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), Christians suffered 225 incidents of religiously motivated violence during the first ten months of 2020 – compared to 218 incidents in the same period in 2019. Many of these attacks were by vigilante mobs. In September 2020, Hindu extremists incited mobs of up to 3,000 people to attack Christians in three villages in Chhattisgarh state.

The growing intolerance towards Christianity has been marked since the coming to power of the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) in 2014. According to Release partners, there has been a significant rise in the number of attacks against Christians following the subsequent landslide victory of BJP Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2019. The Persecution Trends survey is published in the latest of edition of Release International’s *Voice* magazine, available shortly. Through its international network of missions, Release International is active in some 25 countries around the world, supporting pastors, Christian prisoners and their families; supplying Christian literature and Bibles, and working for justice.

**Find out more at: [www.releaseinternational.org](http://www.releaseinternational.org)**

**Taken from Parish Pump**



**For the Young and not so Young**

**PUZ?LES**

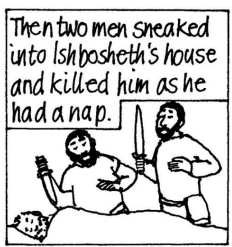
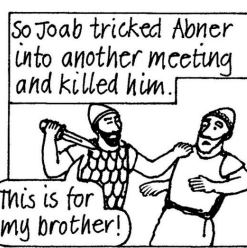
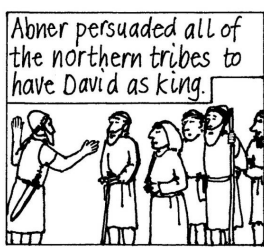
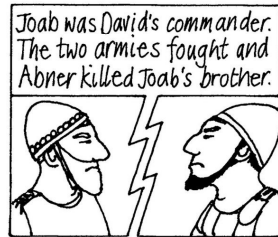
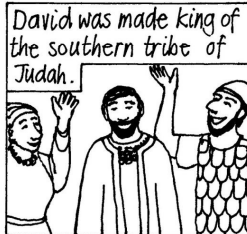
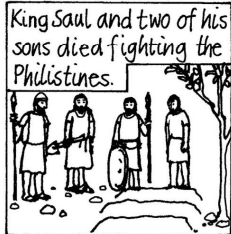
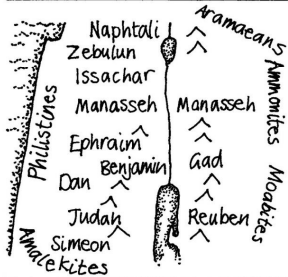
**Crossword**

**Bible Bite**

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in: Josh 13:8-20:48  
1 Sam 31:1-5, 2 Sam 2:4-24, 3:12, 17-27, 4, 5:1-5

When the Jews reached the place that God had promised them, each tribe was given land to live in. But they were surrounded by enemies..



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8						
9		10				
11	12		13	14		15
16	17		18	19	20	21
22		23			24	
25						

**Sudoku**

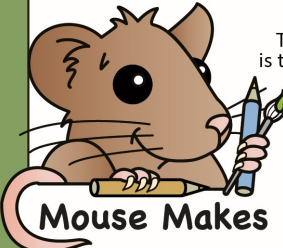
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8		5				7	2
	9	2	4		3		
	5						
	3	7	1	5	2		
						5	
	8		7	9	5		
2	9			6			8
	3		2		7		

• Life is full of ups and downs. Life has many smiles and frowns. The life we lead from day to day. What we do, or maybe say. Affects the lives of others too. Which boomerang back to me and you. **From 'Poems to Ponder', Dorothy Durrant**

**Crossword Clues – Across**

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to ]— your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)





**Mouse Makes**

**WHAT AM I?**  
The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next ....

E				H
		S		
M				G
				D
S				H
				S

• What two things did God create first? *Genesis 1:1*

• What was the Earth without? *Genesis 1:2*

• What came before morning? *Gen 1:5*

• Who is the creator? *Genesis 1:1*

• What was separated from light? *Gen 1:4*

• Which day did God finish work? *Gen 2:2*

• Who was created God's image? *Gen 1:27*

• Who moved over the water? *Gen 1:2*

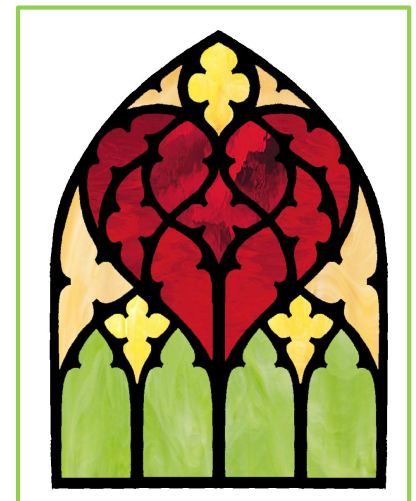
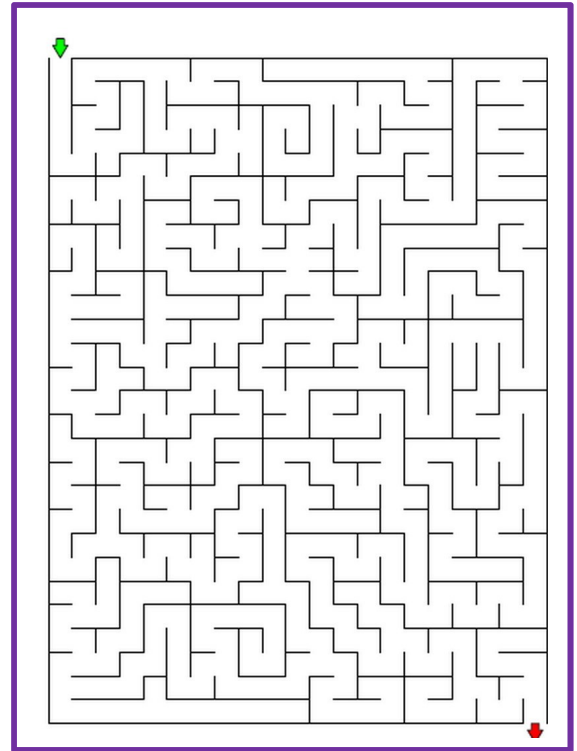
**FIND THE CREATION PAIRS**  
from *Genesis 1 and 2*

EARTH	MORNING
LIGHT	FRUIT
DAYS	SEA
TREES	NIGHT
LAND	FISH
EVENING	YEARS
ADAM	HEAVENS
DAY	DARK
BIRDS	WATER
SKY	EVE

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*

Can you find these words in the word search?  
 GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT  
 FLY • DEEP • EARTH  
 DARK • DAY • LIGHT  
 NIGHT • STARS • SKY  
 SEA • LAND • BIRD  
 CREATURE • HUMAN  
 TREE • PLANT • SEEDS  
 FRUIT • GOOD • TWO

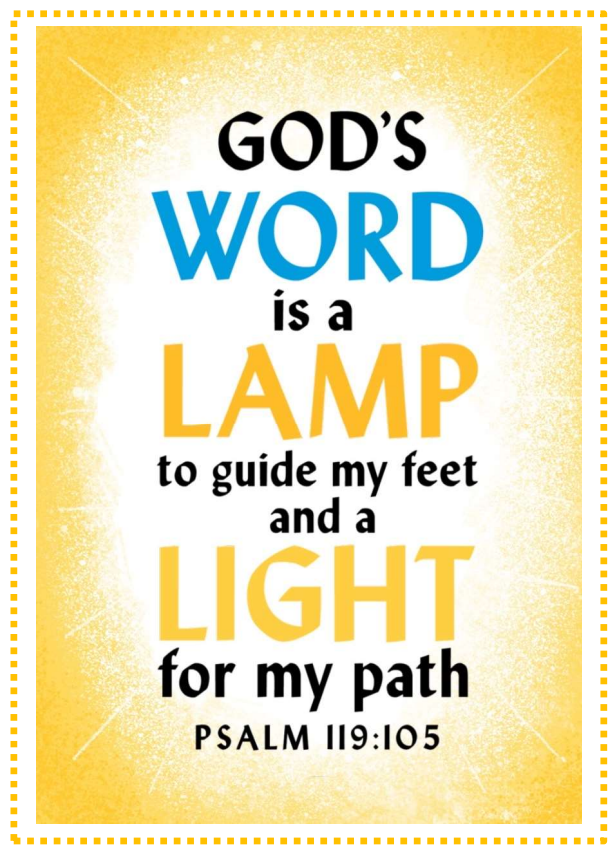
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**Crossword Clues – Down**

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13)(3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5)(6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)





- |          |             |           |
|----------|-------------|-----------|
| Fighting | Brother     | Commander |
| David    | Philistines | Saul      |
| Abner    | Meeting     | Secret    |
| King     | Ishbosheth  | Angry     |
| Land     | Sneaked     | Promised  |
| Tribes   | Israel      | Reward    |
| Northern | Tricked     | Armies    |
| Joab     | Southern    | Enemies   |

**Second Wordsearch**



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!  
Romans 10:15

**Second Wordsearch Words:**

- |           |           |         |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Naming    | Justice   | Temple  |
| Matthias  | Poverty   | Love    |
| Candlemas | Nest box  | Coffee  |
| Simeon    | Marriage  | Leprosy |
| Valentine | Wedding   | Christ  |
| Holocaust | Romance   | Anna    |
| Fairtrade | Fortnight |         |
| Bananas   | Chocolate |         |

**Puzzle Pages Solutions**

**Sudoku Solution**

3	2	1	9	6	7	4	8	5
8	4	6	5	3	1	9	7	2
5	7	9	2	4	8	3	1	6
7	5	4	6	9	2	8	3	1
6	8	3	7	1	5	2	9	4
9	1	2	4	8	3	6	5	7
4	6	8	1	7	9	5	2	3
2	9	7	3	5	6	1	4	8
1	3	5	8	2	4	7	6	9

**Crossword Answers:**

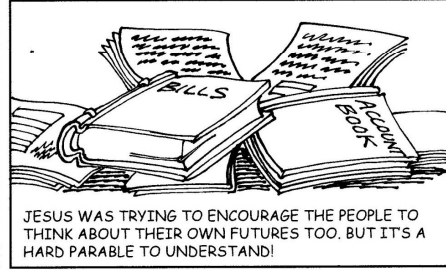
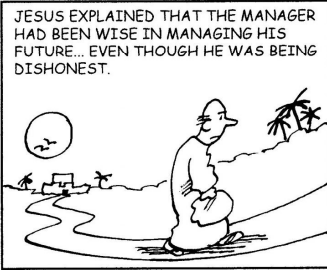
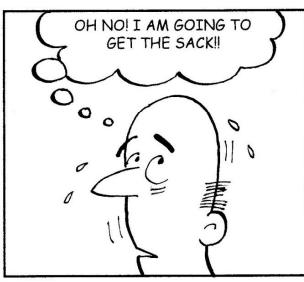
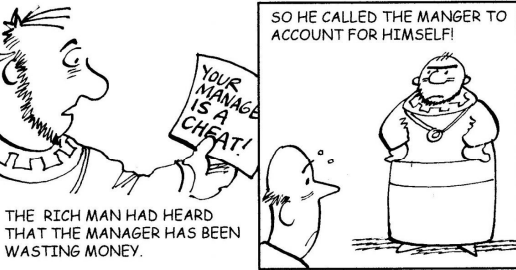
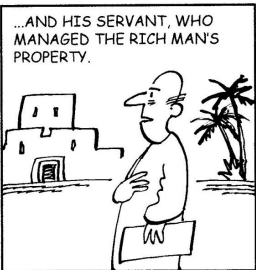
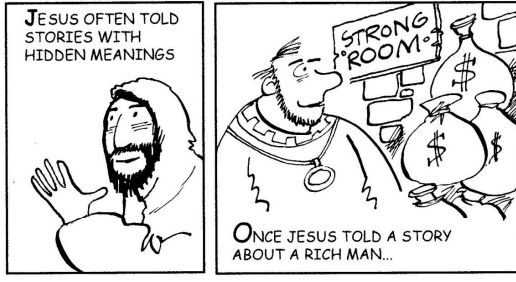
**ACROSS:**

- 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash.
- 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi.
- 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer.
- 22, No account. 24, RAC.
- 25, Sovereign Lord.

**DOWN:**

- 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist.
- 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec.
- 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting.
- 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve.
- 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow.
- 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

The parable of the Shrewd Manager



**Endurance is the ability to stand up under adversity; perseverance is the ability to progress in spite of it – Jerry Bridges**

\* \* \* \* \*

**It is but right that our hearts should be on God, when the heart of God is so much on us – Richard Baxter**

\* \* \* \* \*

**If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.**

\* \* \* \* \*



Every time we breathe a second passes by. What are we doing with time that passes by so quickly?

\* \* \* \* \*

As any member of a church committee will tell you, after all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done.

\* \* \* \* \*

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our heart rather than a piece of our mind – *has been attributed to: Ritu Ghatourney*

## George Herbert, Priest and Poet

If we were to name someone prominent from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, we might mention Rembrandt or Shakespeare. It is unlikely we would remember George Herbert. However, he was a prolific writer, a gifted speaker and musician. His hymns are still sung today. Herbert was born into a wealthy family in Mid-Wales on 3 April 1593. His father was a Member of Parliament who died when Herbert was three years old. His mother moved her large family to London where, aged 12, Herbert entered Westminster School. In 1609, his mother remarried, and Herbert left home to be a student at Trinity College, Cambridge. By the age of 23, Herbert had graduated with two degrees. He was fluent in Latin and Greek and in 1620 was elected as the University's Public Orator. He held this position for seven years, and for a short time was MP in his hometown in Wales. Although Herbert was securing an illustrious future and his speeches had gained the attention of King James 1, he was restless. He felt God was calling him to the priesthood and much of Herbert's poetry expressed his inner spiritual conflicts.

When the King died in 1625, and two influential patrons also died at about the same time, Herbert responded to God's call on his life and gave up his secular ambitions. He married in 1629 and became a priest in a small Anglican church in Bemerton in Wiltshire. Here he found inner peace at last, serving God in the local community. His poetic talent continued to flourish along with his musicianship as a skilled lutenist. After only three years as a priest, he died of tuberculosis on 1 March 1633. He was 39. Some ninety of Herbert's poems have been set to music by such composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. His most well-known hymns are *Teach me my God and King*, *Let all the world in every corner sing* and *King of glory, king of peace*. A number of artistic commemorations of Herbert exists in several churches and cathedrals including a stained-glass window in Westminster Abbey and a statue at the front of Salisbury Cathedral.

### **Parish Pump**

#### **In this Lenten Time Renew us**

***This may be sung to the tune 'Rhuddlan' (Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendour)***

Jesus, in the wilds You tarried, Forty days and forty nights.  
By the Tempter often harried, You the victor in each fight!  
In this Lenten time renew us, Make us perfect in Your sight!

Bread alone cannot sustain us, But each word from God above.  
Worldly goods can nothing gain us, If we lack our Father's love.  
In this Lenten time renew us, Come upon us like a dove!

God our judge should not be tempted, He alone is fully just.  
His laws can't be circumvented, Satan's world will turn to dust!  
In this Lenten time renew us, Teach us where to place our trust!

All Earth's kingdoms are but trifles, If our Lord we can't adore.  
Worldly wealth our worship stifles, And, in truth, it makes us poor.  
In this Lenten time renew us, Guide us to Your Heav'nly shore!

God Almighty, everlasting, Perfect all that you create.  
Be with us in feast or fasting, Cleanse our hearts from greed and hate.  
In this Lenten time renew us, That our joy may ne'er abate!

**by Nigel Beeton, Parish Pump**